

Loud & Clear

FALL 2006 • Volume 18, No. 4

Tech Quest Survey

If you were among the many attendees, thank you for coming to our 2006 Tech Quest fair. Access Services hopes that you found the fair informative and fun! Please put your thoughts into words and take a moment to complete the enclosed survey. When you've finished, simply tear the survey out, fold it in half, tape or staple it closed and mail it back to us. There are no postage fees! We want your opinions!

35th Anniversary

In 2007 Access Services will reach its 35th year as part of the National Library Service Talking Book Program network. Watch for announcements about our plans for a spring celebration!



New Braille Embosser

A very generous gift from the Friends of the Reston Regional Library has greatly enhanced the quality of assistive equipment available at Access Services. The donation has permitted us to replace our aging Braille embosser with a new state-of-the-art model equipped with a sound reduction hood. Loud applause and many thanks go to the wonderful Reston Friends!

**Fairfax
County
Public
Library**

Access Services

Fairfax County Public Library • 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Suite 123 • Fairfax, VA 22035-0012 703-324-8380 • TTY 703-324-8365
FAX 703-324-8386 • e-mail: access@fairfaxcounty.gov

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

Audio-Described Videos

Wish you could curl up at home with a bowl of popcorn and watch a movie despite vision loss? Access Services owns more than 150 audio-described videos that enable blind and visually impaired customers to enjoy popular movies. During quiet moments these special videos include a professional narrator who explains what is happening on the screen. Facial expressions, body language, costuming and actions are all described to help viewers better understand the film.

All you need to enjoy these videos is to be a certified Talking Book Program customer and own a VCR. Oh, and you'll need to supply the popcorn! We will mail you the videos, and you return them exactly like a Talking Book – just turn over the mailing card; insert it; and give the box to your mail carrier. There are no fees, but we ask that you return videos as soon as possible.

Access Services will be happy to mail you a list of titles in large print or Braille. A list is also available at the Access Services portion of the Fairfax County Public Library Web site, **www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library**. The videos are listed in the FCPL online library catalog, as well. If there are multiple titles you would like to view over time, we can enter the titles in your account as requests for the future.

Here are our latest audio-described drama additions:

"Batman Begins"

"Fantastic 4"

"Gangs of New York"

"Joy Luck Club"

"Million Dollar Baby"

"Mystic River"

"Pirates of the Caribbean"

"Ray"

"Unforgiven"

"X-Men"

Fairfax County Public Library

Full Text Databases

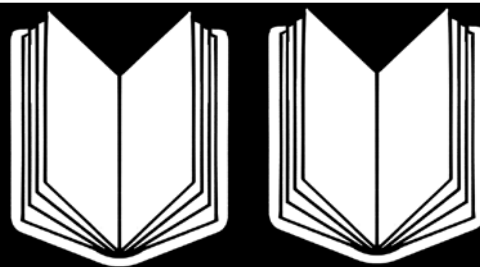
Access Services customers are eligible not only to receive Fairfax County Public Library print and audio materials, but also to use the other services provided by FCPL. For example, FCPL subscribes to online databases that include thousands of publications in full text. You can access newspaper stories, magazine articles, encyclopedias, reports, statistics, documents, and more. Navigate to **www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library**. Click on Databases to see what is available. You will need a Fairfax County Public Library card to access the databases. To use most of the databases your Web browser must be set to accept cookies. You may also need to add databases as trusted sites within your firewall software. For more information, contact Access Services or your local library branch.

Downloadable eBooks

The Fairfax County Public Library has many free downloadable electronic books available at **www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library**. You can listen to an eAudiobook on your computer or MP3 player, or read an e-book in a digital full-text version. Contact your local library branch or Access Services for more information.

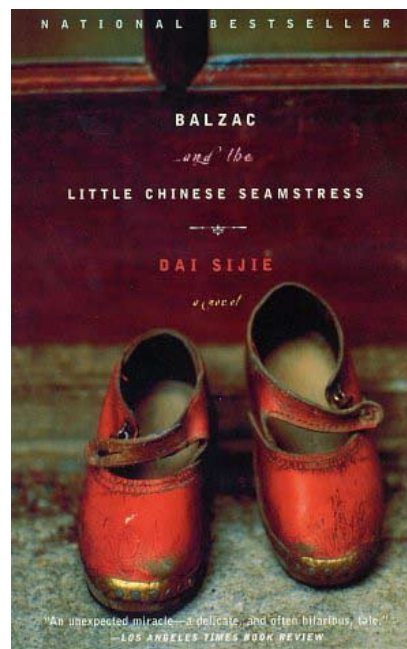
"Books are the quietest and the most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers."

— Charles W. Eliot



All Fairfax Reads

Join your neighbors and friends for the third annual All Fairfax Reads, a one book/one community project that encourages all Fairfax County residents to read the same book at the same time. The 2006 choice is the novel ***Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*** by Dai Sijie, translated from the French by Ina Rilke. Book discussions and special All Fairfax Reads events will be held in the fall.



The novel's setting is China in the early 1970s. The Cultural Revolution is shutting down universities and punishing intellectuals suspected of anti-Maoist thinking. Two lively young men are sent to a remote mountain village where they lead a tedious existence until they acquire a hidden collection of Western literature. When one of the teenagers becomes infatuated with a beautiful local girl, the boys try "re-educating" the simple seamstress through exposure to Balzac and other forbidden authors. Their attempt to change a peasant into a sophisticate succeeds, but not quite as anticipated. History, romance and suspense abound in a moving story that illustrates the transformative power of literature.

Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress is available as a cassette Talking Book (**RC 55365**) and in Braille from the National Library Service. It is also available from the Fairfax County Public Library as a regular print book, a cassette audio book or a CD audio book. For more information contact Access Services or go to the FCPL Web site, **www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library**.

Closed Captioning and Descriptive Video at Local Theaters

Local movie theaters in our communities provide Rear Window Captioning ® (RWC®) and Descriptive Video Service ® (DVC®) for moviegoers who are deaf, hearing impaired, blind and visually impaired. Contact your local theater for movies and show times and enjoy the movie!

National Amusements

Fairfax Corner 14 Cinema de Lux

11900 Palace Way
Fairfax
703-378-6350, TTY 711

Consolidated Kingstowne 16

5910 Kingstowne Town Center
Kingstowne
703-719-0784, TTY 711

AMC Tysons Fairfax Square 8 (RWC® only)

8065 Leesburg Pike
Vienna
703-506-9857, TTY 711

AMC Tysons Corner 16

1961 Chain Bridge Road
McLean
703-734-6212, TTY 711

AMC Springfield Mall

6500 Springfield Mall
Springfield
703-971-4203, TTY 711

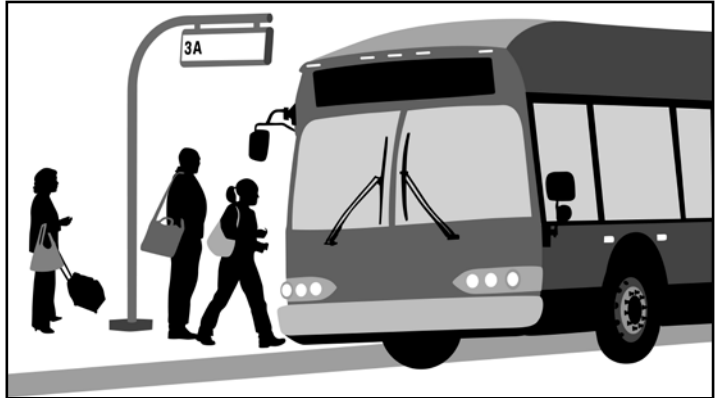
AMC Hoffman Center 22

206 Swamp Fox Road
Alexandria
703-236-1083, TTY 711



Free Fare on the Fairfax Connector for MetroAccess Users

MetroAccess is the curb-to-curb disability transportation service that compliments the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Registered MetroAccess users and an accompanying companion



can ride on any Fairfax County Connector bus route for free! They may also use MetroRail and Metrobus at no charge. You must have a current MetroAccess ID card. For more information on how to apply for this service, please call MetroAccess at 1-800-523-7009, TTY 1-301-588-7835. You may also contact the Fairfax Connector at 703-339-7200, TTY 711.

Enhanced Letter Format

The Virginia M. Woolf Foundation offers persons who are visually impaired or blind, computer-based access to a variety of publications for moderate fees. Known as Enhanced Letter Format, or ELF books, the publications are viewable on a computer screen using the free Adobe Reader. They can be printed on paper or ordered in CD format. The books are compatible with screen readers for the blind. Each ELF book contains links from the contents to specified pages and includes a search tool. These publications are specifically formatted for the vision impaired, so a user doesn't have to enlarge text or struggle with text that doesn't fit on a line. Included are 89 classic titles ranging from ***Alice in Wonderland*** to ***Wuthering Heights***, ***The 9-11 Commission Report***, ***The King James Bible*** and a collection of U.S. Supreme Court opinions and government publications. For more

detailed information, call 1-310-379-8321, TTY 711; or visit the Web site: **www.text-key.com**.

Sacred Writings

Looking for religious texts accessible to those with low vision or blindness? The National Library Service has a publication to help you. The NLS reference circular, "Bibles and Other Sacred Writings in Special Media" lists sources for Bibles and sacred writings of many world religions, in a variety of languages, translations and versions. Commentaries, concordances, liturgies, prayer books, hymnals and magazines are also listed. The information is taken from descriptive brochures provided by publishers and suppliers. Some Bibles and other texts are available free of charge to individuals with visual impairments. Formats include large print, audio, Braille and electronic resources. For more information contact Access Services to request a copy of the circular or go to **www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/bibles**.

Assistive Technology Products for Information Access

One of the newest National Library Service publications lists sources of products that enable people who have visual or physical disabilities to access information by converting print into synthetic speech, Braille or enlarged text. Many products include an internal speech synthesizer. You may request a copy of this reference circular from Access Services or it is available at: **www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/assistive**.

Access to Talking Books on the Internet

Many of our Talking Book customers use their computers to do everyday things, from banking to searching for the next great movie. Why

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not search for your next great Talking Book online? You can go directly to the National Library Service Web site at **www.loc.gov/nls**. You can also navigate from the Access Services Web page as follows: go to **www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library**. Click on Library Branches, click Access Services, then click National Library Service under the heading Talking Book Services.

Once you reach the NLS Web site, click on one of the choices under the heading Find Books and Magazines in Braille or Audio. You can now search for a specific book. Happy hunting! If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Access Services.

Talking With Your Doctor

Today patients take an active role in their health care. You and your doctor will work in partnership to achieve your best possible level of health. An important part of this relationship is good communication. Here are some questions you can ask your doctor to get your discussion started:

About my disease or disorder ...

What is my diagnosis?

What caused my condition?

Should I watch for any particular symptoms and notify you if they occur?

Should I make any lifestyle changes?

About my treatment ...

What is the treatment for my condition?

When will the treatment start and how long will it last?

What are the benefits of this treatment, and how successful is it?

What are the risks and side effects associated with this treatment?

Are there foods, drugs, or activities I should avoid while I'm on this treatment?
If my treatment includes taking a medication, what should I do if I miss a dose?
Are other treatments available?

About my tests ...

What kinds of tests will I have?
What do you expect to find out from these tests?

When will I know the results?

Do I have to do anything special to prepare for any of the tests?

Do these tests have any side effects?

Will I need more tests later?

Understanding your doctor's responses is essential to good communication. Here are a few more tips:

If you don't understand your doctor's responses, ask questions until you do understand.

Take notes, or get a friend or family member to take notes for you. Or, bring a tape recorder to assist your recollection of the discussion.

Ask your doctor to write down his or her instructions to you.

Ask your doctor for printed material about your condition.

If you still have trouble understanding your doctor's answers, ask where you can go for more information.

Other members of your health care team, such as nurses and pharmacists, can be good sources of information. Talk to them, too.

For more information, contact the National Eye Institute at 301-496-5248, TTY 711 or go to **www.nei.nih.gov**.

(This article is courtesy of the National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health.02-05)



Fairfax Area Agency on Aging

Do you know where to go for information on home-delivered meals; in-home care resources; family caregiver support; and volunteer services? The Fairfax Area Agency on Aging offers information and assistance on these and many other ways to improve the quality of life for older adults. For more information, please call 703-324-5411; TTY 703-449-1186 or go to **www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa**.

New Talking Book Magazines

Would you like to receive any of the following new Talking Book magazines? Please contact Access Services today to order!

National Geographic Traveler
Playboy
Retirement Life
Seventeen

Smithsonian
Southern Living
Washingtonian
Wild West

Fall for a Book

It's that time of year to watch the leaves fall and cozy up to a good book. Pour yourself a cup of coffee or tea and enjoy! Please contact Access Services for more recommendations.



Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger. **RC 57102**

Librarian Henry De Tamble checks out more than the latest book in this tale of time travel. Chrono-Impairment catapults Henry sporadically through his past and future. But there's no Disney magic as the reader lives through Henry's experiences, like meeting his wife Claire when she's six; trying to keep his secret from his parents; trying to avoid

embarrassing and life threatening moments that can't be explained. This book leaves the reader contemplating the power of love and how it sustains over life trials and time. The library offers this book in eAudio and regular print formats.

Three Weeks with My Brother by Nicholas Sparks. **RC 58824**

The only surviving members of their family, Nicholas and Micah Sparks set out on a trip around the world in order to bring closeness to a relationship that has been strained by bills, jobs, families and emotional loss. This memoir by the famous author and his brother, Micah, chronicles their traveling adventures and intimately unfolds their re-discovery of each other. Their trip is a great travelogue of exotic places like Peru, India and Australia. The library offers this selection in e-book, CD and regular print formats.

Strange Affair by Peter Robinson. **RC 61722**

Detective Annie Cabbot has a problem. During a routine investigation, she finds the name and address of her boss, Detective Inspector Alan Banks, in the victim's pocket. As the conjecture about this discovery explodes, Inspector Banks is in London trying to find the whereabouts of his estranged brother. Concerned because of his brother's dubious business dealings, the chief inspector discovers that his sibling was last seen getting into a car with an unidentified man. It also appears that his brother's apartment has been rifled; his computer is missing; and his cell phone was found laying on the kitchen counter. It's up to the reader's detecting prowess, as well as following Alan Banks through professional risk and personal regrets, to find the answers. The library offers this book in CD or regular print formats.

City of Falling Angels by John Berendt. **RC 60672**

John Berendt becomes immersed in the culture of Venice and tells his

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story much in the same way ***Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*** revealed Savannah, Georgia. Berendt investigates the burning of the city's famed La Fenice opera house. He is soon distracted, however, by the city's charming denizens, which include a glassblower who creates homage to the fire in vases; an outspoken surrealist painter; and a tenacious prosecutor. To sweeten the broth, the infamous Italian bureaucracy drags out the investigation of the fire which allows the author plenty of time to schmooze with the residents of the Venetian community by conducting long discussions about the city's role in preserving local art, culture and architecture. This is a first-rate travelogue of the great city of Venice. The library offers this selection in large print, CD and regular print formats.

Web Corner

Fairfax County Public Library has added an Older Adults section to the library Web site, **www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library**. You'll find this new section under the Resources heading on the home page. There are informational links to health and fitness; money and legal issues; and of course information about books, fun and learning. Please contact Access Services or your local library branch if you need additional information.

Here are a few more Web sites of interest:

www.disabilityinfo.gov

It's easy to navigate this federal Web site for information and resources on policies, programs and practices that promote equal opportunity for people with disabilities.

**"A room
without books
is like a body
without a soul."**

– Cicero

www.consumeraction.gov

Having consumer issues? Check out this site which has consumer news and a resource directory for contacting a specific company. You'll also find the Consumer Action Handbook online.

www.seniorcorps.org

Interested in making a difference in your world? Check out this site to learn ways to contribute to your community.

www.nlm.nih.gov

This site is a service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health. There's a wealth of information from health topics to advanced directives and living wills.

www.microbattery.com

Do you need hearing aid, watch or rechargeable batteries? This site offers a wide variety of brand names. This database can match rechargeable batteries for over 10,000 products. Search away!

A Talking Book Tale

An Access Services customer called with a funny story. She had phoned at an earlier time and requested ***In Cold Blood (RC 22726)*** by Truman Capote. What she received was ***Never Be Nervous Again (RC 27726)*** by Dorothy Sarnoff. The customer was a bit surprised to discover upon starting the first cassette that rather than ***In Cold Blood*** she was listening to a communication consultant discuss mental preparedness and the use of physical and mental exercises to warm the ice water in your veins brought on by public speaking. She continued to listen and discovered, among other things, that to look good in a public venue was to be prepared and speak from the heart. Little did she realize that her mistaken talking book title would save

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her. The following week she attended a large public gathering where many affluent names appeared on the guest list. In the past, before **RC 27726**, she would have been very nervous if asked to deliver the invocation. Not this time though: She led the group in prayer and spoke from the heart. During the rest of the day she received many compliments and positive feedback in regard to her prayer of gratitude and thanks that came straight from the heart (and from **Never Be Nervous Again**). The customer then asked her reader advisor to order **In Cold Blood** for her.

Staff News: The Award Goes To. . .

Access Services is proud to recognize our award-winning staff!

Laurie DoCarmo, Sandy Japikse, Beena Pandey and **Royce Zivan** received a Fairfax County Public Library team award for their participation and hard work on the Tech Quest tech fair planning committee. Royce has also received an FCPL team award for her work on a Circulation Task Force that revised job descriptions for circulation positions.

Myrna Mouchon is a winner in the Older Virginia Worker 2006 competition. This award recognizes the contributions to the community of older workers and their employers and their ability to break down barriers that may exist associated with age in the workplace. Myrna will attend the award gala at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C. on October 4. Winners from each state, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia will be present. Co-worker **Dorothy Halligan** successfully nominated Myrna for this honor. Congratulations!

Last but not least, our branch manager is a star! **Starr Smith** was named Reviewer of the Year for Fiction by Library Journal, a major

**"Woe be to him
that reads but
one book."**

— George Herbert

library publication. The award was announced during the American Library Association annual conference in June. Starr has reviewed a wide range of books for more than 20 years. You can find her reviews not only in ***Library Journal*** but in ***School Library Journal***, where she

writes about new fiction and nonfiction for children and teens.

Exceptional Volunteer

On April 12, 2006 the Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees recognized our very own **Wellington Machmer** with an Exceptional Service Award for his volunteer assistance with Access Services. "Mr. Mac" has contributed more than 4,800 hours in over 24 years as a volunteer. He helps repair cassettes and duplicate newsletters and magazines such as **Loud and Clear** and **Golden Gazette**. We have always known that Mr. Mac is "exceptional"— now everyone else knows, too! Thank you, Mr. Mac, thank you!

Our Exceptional
Volunteer Mr. Mac with
Jennifer Durand, one of
Access Services super
reader advisors!



Personal Reader Assistance

Did you know you have a personal contact available at Access Services? If you are a Talking Book customer, we have assigned a staff member to your account based on the first letter of your last name:

Laurie DoCarmo	E, F, G	703-324-8391
Jennifer Durand	J, L, N, R, T	703-324-8383
Dorothy Halligan	B, K, Y, Z	703-324-8382
Sandy Japikse	A, C, P, & schools	703-324-8396
Rashmi Malhotra	D	703-324-8385
Myrna Mouchon	S	703-324-8408
Daniel Ramos	M & Spanish language	703-324-8384
Beena Pandey	I, O, U, V, W	703-324-8388
Royce Zivan	H, Q, & institutions	703-324-8389

Too complicated? Don't worry! We are always ready to assist when you call our main number 703-324-8380; our TTY line 703-324-8365; or send an e-mail to **access@fairfaxcounty.gov**.

If you are a Home Delivery customer but not a Talking Book customer, please call Access Services for the name of your staff contact person.



Did You Attend Tech Quest Last May?

If you joined us for our spring 2006 technology/resources fair, please complete this evaluation.

You may return the form to Access Services by tearing it out, folding it and mailing it. Our address is already printed on the other side of this page. If you prefer, share your thoughts with us by phone or e-mail!

1. Time allotted for the fair was:

☐ Too short ☐ Just right ☐ Too long

2. Did the fair meet your expectations?

☐ Yes ☐ Somewhat ☐ Not at all

3. What was most helpful?

4. What was least helpful?

5. How did you learn about the fair?

6. What should be included in future fairs?

7. Your home zip code:

8. Other comments:

FREE MATTER for the
Blind and Physically
Handicapped Manual PT.138

Access Services

Fairfax County Public Library
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Suite 123
Fairfax, VA 22035-0012

Holiday Library Closing Dates:

Labor Day: September 4, 2006
Columbus Day: October 9, 2006
Veterans Day: November 10, 2006
Thanksgiving Day: November 23 & 24, 2006

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions concerning the *Loud & Clear* newsletter, please contact Royce Zivan at 703-324-8389, TTY 703-324-8365, royce.zivan@fairfaxcounty.gov.



Loud & Clear

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

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Call 703-324-8380 or TTY 703- 324-8365.

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Access Services

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